

Watson Park — Status Update

January 24, 2007

Dear Resident:

Findings from the extensive environmental studies that have been underway at Watson Park for the past two years were presented to the community on January 24 by officials from the State Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). These findings can be reviewed in the ***Preliminary Waste Characterization Report*** available on the City's website at www.sanjoseca.gov/prns/watsonpark/WatsonReports.asp.

Briefly, we are confident that the boundaries of the burn ash footprint associated with the Watson Park Site have been determined and we know more precisely where the contaminants are located within the site. The City can now begin planning for clean-up and restoration of the Park. This newsletter summarizes the next steps in this process.

REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN

After receiving DTSC approval of the *Preliminary Waste Characterization Report*, City staff is now developing a clean-up plan (called a *Draft Remedial Action Plan* or Draft RAP), which is estimated to be complete by May. (See more detailed schedule below). The Draft RAP will evaluate the site risks, identify clean-up goals for the site, and propose and evaluate cost-effective strategies for cleaning up areas of concern at Watson Park. Clean-up strategies will be aligned with options for potential uses (e.g., soccer fields, playground, dog park, etc.) Once DTSC has completed its review of the Draft RAP, the document will be made available for public review and comment. DTSC will hold a 30-day public comment period and public meeting on the Draft RAP to make sure that community concerns are considered.

Target Milestones for Clean-Up Plan

March 2007	City submits draft RAP to DTSC
May 2007	DTSC approves RAP
July 2007	Remediation work begins at Watson Park

PARK PLANNING — FEBRUARY 7 COMMUNITY MEETING

Site clean-up needs to be finished before work begins on park restoration. To save time during the required environmental review process, however, restoration planning has begun in tandem with the clean-up planning. The City has prepared three park layout alternatives, which will be presented to the public for discussion at a **Community Meeting on February 7 at 6:30 PM at Empire Gardens Elementary School**. These layouts respond to park planning priorities set by the community in March 2006. Each layout is based on a potential clean-up that will be evaluated in the Draft RAP. Until the Draft RAP is approved, the final remediation action is not yet determined. The layouts, therefore, are works in progress.

Visit the City website at www.sanjoseca.gov/prns/watsonpark/watsonreports.asp to see the proposed park layouts online before the community meeting. A map of existing conditions at the park is also posted for comparison. All layouts will also be placed in the repositories listed on the next page.

About the Three Layouts

- **Layout A** assumes the site's grades would remain largely unchanged, a scenario that is least likely to be implemented.
- **Layouts B & C** assume that grading changes would be necessary and create a new neighborhood-serving park at grade with 22nd Street.
- **Layout C** is a hybrid of Layouts A & B and includes all of the park facilities that currently exist in Watson Park, except for one soccer field.

PARK MAINTENANCE

Although Watson Park is closed, the City continues to keep the park clean and green. With the slower grass growth of the winter rainy season, the City has reduced the frequency of grass mowing and watering. At the beginning of spring, mowing, weeding, and watering will begin again on a regular basis. Fertilization and de-thatching of the grass areas will continue through the spring and summer. For questions or comments about park maintenance, contact Mike Will, Acting Parks Manager, at (408) 277-2734.

VOLUNTARY SOIL SAMPLING PROJECT

Last August, City Council approved plans to conduct soil sampling on additional private properties on Terrace Drive in response to expressions of interest by some of the Terrace Drive homeowners who were not part of the soil removal project. This soil sampling project was conducted on a voluntary basis and is not considered part of the Watson Park environmental studies and cleanup.

Good news! Laboratory tests found that all samples taken in the public right-of-way and in the front yards of four properties on the west side of Terrace Drive are well below the residential screening level for lead of 150 ppm. These results reconfirm the waste area boundaries already established by previous testing. Last week, City staff met individually with participating homeowners to present the results and answer any remaining questions.

MEETING CALENDAR

Below are proposed dates for upcoming meetings on Watson Park issues. Residents will be notified of community meetings as the dates are confirmed. All meetings begin at 6:30 PM. Community meetings will take place at Empire Gardens Elementary School, 1060 East Empire Street. Watson Park Community Advisory Project Committee (CPAC) meetings will take place at Watson Park Community Center, 550 North 22nd Street.

Monday, January 29	CPAC meeting on park planning and draft RAP
Wednesday, February 7	Community meeting on park planning layouts and restoration priorities
Monday, March 19	CPAC meeting on CEQA study and funding for park restoration
Monday, April 23	CPAC meeting on final master plan amendment
TBD Spring	DTSC-led public meeting on RAP

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

Proposed park layouts and other Watson Park final project documents are available at:

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library

150 East San Fernando Street
2nd Floor Reference Desk

Regular Hours:

Mon. – Thurs. 8:00 AM - 10:00 PM
Friday 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Saturday 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Sunday 1:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Reference Desk is self-service
before 9:00 AM & after 9:00 PM

Documents are indexed as follows:

Watson Park Work Plan - REF TD797.W67x2006
Terrace Drive Work Plan - REF TD797.S65x2006
Preliminary Waste Characterization Report
REF TD797.S65x2006
Park Layouts (number not yet assigned)

Northside Community Center

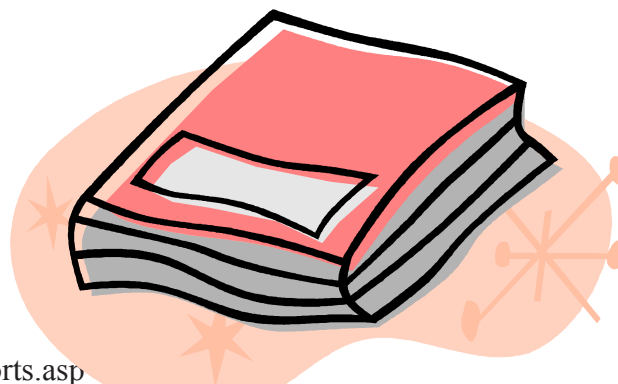
488 North 6th Street

Hours: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Empire Gardens Elementary School

1060 East Empire Street

Hours: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Website: www.sanjoseca.gov/prns/watsonpark/WatsonReports.asp

City: Ed Bautista, (408) 535-3570 (Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services)

DTSC: Kim Rhodes, (916) 255-3651 (Public Participation Program)